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Reply to office action dated 04/29/2004

Amendments to the claims

Listing of claims.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims, in the application.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1(currently amended). A method of transferring data from a remote server to a ~~remote-local~~ client, said remote server being connected to a high speed backbone network and being connected to said local client, over a ~~communications~~ low bandwidth communications link, comprising:

 sending a data request from the ~~remote-local~~ client to the said remote server for specific data, said data request including user-selectable compression parameters for said specific data; accompanied by a compression request for transmission at a specified compression ratio;

receiving said request for specific data at the said remote server, said remote server and retrieving said specific data over said high speed backbone network from a data source;

 providing an agent at the remote server to intercept said retrieved data and compress at least part of said retrieved data prior to transmission in accordance with said specified compression request parameters contained in said data request;

 transmitting said retrieved data in compressed form in accordance with said specified compression parameters over said said low bandwidth communications link to said ~~remote-local~~ client; and

 decompressing said compressed data at said ~~remote-local~~ client to restore said retrieved data to an uncompressed intelligible form.

2(original). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said agent compresses image portions of said data.

3(original). A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said image portions are compressed using a lossy compression algorithm.

4(original). A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said lossy compression algorithm comprises a discrete wavelet transform.

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5(original). A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said images are compressed using a lossless compression algorithm.

6(currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~remote-local~~ client sends at least one further request for all or part said specific data at a reduced compression ratio.

7(currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said local client sends a request for an identified portion of said data at a reduced compression ~~ratio~~ratio.

8(original). A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said specific data comprises a web page stored on a web server.

9(original). A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said identified portion comprises a portion of an image forming part of said web page.

10(currently amended). A ~~remote~~ server for transferring on demand data ~~on-demand-retrieved over a high bandwidth communications link~~ to a ~~remote-local~~ client over a low bandwidth communications link, comprising:

~~a storage medium for storing transferable data;~~

~~— a processing unit for receiving a data request from the remote-local client for specific data and identifying a source of said data, said data request further including user-selectable compression parameters for said specific data accompanied by a compression request for transmission at a specified compression ratio;~~

~~said server being configured, upon receipt of said data request, to retrieve said data from the identified source over said high bandwidth communications link;~~

~~an agent at the said server for intercepting said retrieved data retrieved over said high bandwidth communications link and compressing at least part of said retrieved data retrieved over said high bandwidth communications link prior to transmission in accordance with said compression request parameters contained in said data request; and~~

~~a port on said server for transmitting said retrieved data in compressed form over said low bandwidth communications link to said remote-local client, whereby said compressed data can be decompressed at said remote client to restore said retrieved data to an uncompressed intelligible form.~~

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11(currently amended). A server as claimed in claim 10, wherein said agent is configured to compresses image portions of said data.

12(original). A server as claimed in claim 10, wherein said agent employs a lossy compression algorithm.

13(original). A server as claimed in claim 12, wherein said lossy compression algorithm comprises a discrete wavelet transform.

14(original). A server as claimed in claim 10, wherein said agent employs a lossless compression algorithm.

15(original). A server as claimed in claim 10, wherein said server is responsive to at least one further request from said remote client for all or part said specific data at a reduced compression ratio.

16(original). A server as claimed in claim 15, wherein said server is responsive to a request from said remote client for an identified portion of said data at a reduced compression ration.

17(currently amended). A server as claimed in claim 10, wherein said data source server is a web server specified with a URL (universal resource locator) contained in said data request.

18(new). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data request is made through a web browser.

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